

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 11 are amended. Thus, claims 1, 4, 11, and 15-19 remain pending with claims 1 and 11 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the interview granted by the Examiner in charge of this application. In the interview, the Examiner stated that if Applicants were to amend the claims to add a second large diameter escape portion and further define each of the escape portions position relative to each other (i.e., being radially opposed to each other) and that each escape portion is radially inward of the first and second locations on the outer circumferential surface from which the cam profile extends, the claims of this application should overcome the cited prior art.

As noted above and as discussed in more detail below, independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended in this manner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 11, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (JP 2003-3184994) in view of Takeda (US 4,968,292).

Applicants submit that the claims as now pending are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, amended independent claim 1 recites a rotating assembly wherein a rotating member is a cam piece having an outer circumferential surface with a portion of an outer circumferential surface of the rotating member having a cam profile, the cam profile extending from a first location on the outer circumferential surface of the rotating member to a second location on the outer circumferential surface of the rotating member, and wherein first and second large-diameter escape portions in a inner hole are disposed radially inward of the first and second locations, respectively, so that the first and second large-diameter escape portions are radially opposed to each other, and the first and second large-diameter escape portions are configured to prevent contact with an outer circumferential surface of a shaft when the rotating member is fixed to the shaft.

The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such an assembly. In particular, as discussed with the Examiner, at best, the cited prior art discloses “escape portions 41” in Takada. However, “escape portions” 41 are not disposed radially inward of first and second locations, respectively, so that the first and second large-diameter escape portions are radially opposed to each other, wherein a cam profile extends from the first location on the outer circumferential surface of a rotating member to the second location on the outer circumferential surface of the rotating member, as required by independent claim 1 of the present invention. In fact, as shown in Fig. 7 of Takeda, “escape portions” 41 are on an internal gear 30 with no cam profile and are not radially opposed to each other.

Moreover, Applicants submit that there is no reasoning in the prior art to modify either Takeda or Yamamoto such that the combination thereof would have rendered independent claim 1 obvious. Any such reasoning would have involved improper hindsight. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants submit that independent claim 11 and its dependent claims are allowable for similar reasons to those set forth above. Namely, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious a rotating assembly wherein a rotating member is a cam piece having an outer circumferential surface with a portion of the outer circumferential surface of the rotating member having a cam profile, the cam profile extending from a first location on the outer circumferential surface of the rotating member to a second location on the outer circumferential surface of the rotating member, and wherein first and second large-diameter escape portions in an inner hole are disposed radially inward of the first and second locations, respectively, so that the first and second large-diameter escape portions are radially opposed to each other, and the first and second large-diameter escape portions are configured to prevent contact with the outer circumferential surface of a shaft when the rotating member is fixed to the shaft, as recited in independent claim 11.

Claims 4 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto in view of Takeda and further in view of Arnold et al. (US 5,207,120).

Applicants submit that since claims 4 and 15 are dependent from claims 1 and 11, respectively, and since Arnold fails to overcome the deficiencies of Takeda and Yamamoto discussed above, claims 4 and 15 are allowable for the reasons set forth above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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